

# **Foundation Project**

## **London Diamond Way Buddhist Centre – The Beaufoy**

### **Activity Report 2014**



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## 1 Introduction

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Every year we are inspired by our friends' centres in cities all over the world – where they have brought the full benefits of Buddhism and rebuilt old factories, transformed derelict buildings and rejuvenated communities. We are now using this opportunity to do it for London.

Our new London Diamond Way Buddhist Centre at the Beaufoy is already changing and benefiting the lives of many people, and will continue to do so in the future. We want it to be a meeting point for people coming from all corners of the world and – like London itself – a vibrant place for people to exchange ideas, learn and benefit each other.

The former Beaufoy Institute in Lambeth (which we affectionately refer to simply as "the Beaufoy") has presented the opportunity for us to bring these dreams to life. Having completed the purchase process, we are now well underway in the process of restoring the building back to its former glory and creating residential accommodation for members of the Buddhist community.

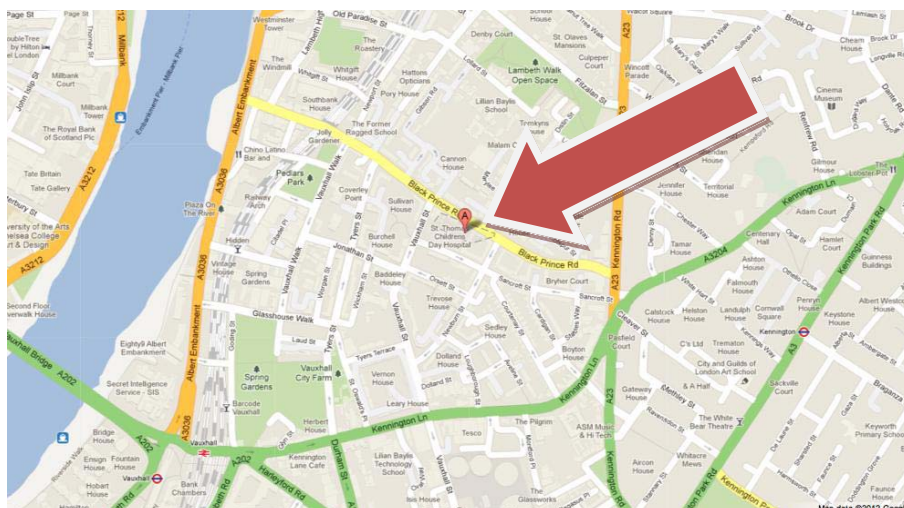
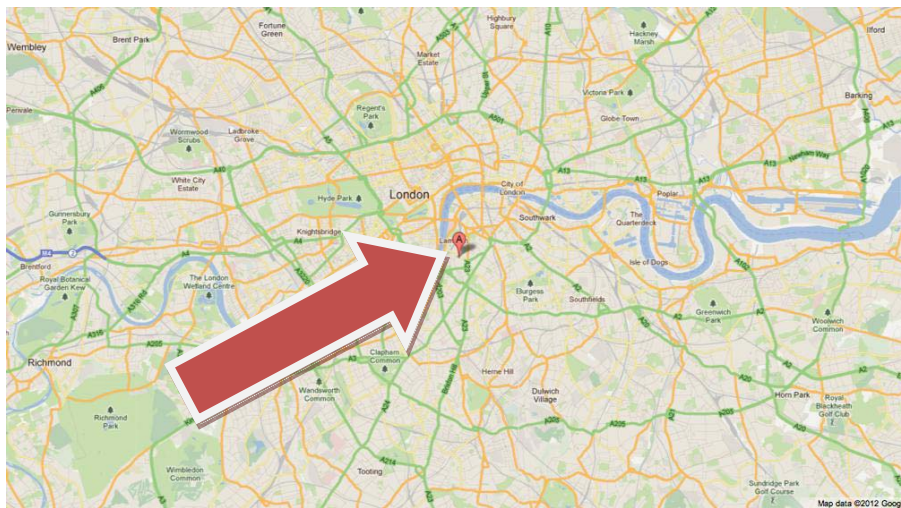
We formally opened our doors to the public on Saturday, 5 April 2014. Representatives from Lambeth Council, the Beaufoy family, local residents and special guests from a number of Buddhist and other faith groups joined Lama Jigme Rinpoche and Lama Ole Nydahl at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

We now have a regular public programme of public meditations every Thursday evening at 7pm, as well as one public lecture every third Sunday of each month.

This project will continue to bring wellbeing, meditation and community cohesion for the people of Lambeth and London more widely. It acts as a focus of authentic lay Tibetan Buddhism, presented in an accessible, dynamic and relevant way.

## 2 Our location

The Beaufoy is located in the heart of Central London, and lies within a five-minute drive of important and well-known landmarks such as the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye and the Tate Modern. It is easily accessible by train (Waterloo, Vauxhall), underground (Kennington, Oval) and multiple bus routes. It is located within the London Borough of Lambeth, on the historic “South Bank” of the Thames.



### 3 The building

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Constructed in 1907, the Beaufoy is a grade II listed building. Its rich history is itself an important part of Lambeth. However, having been left unused for many years it has been placed on English Heritage's "Buildings at Risk Register". We have already made immense progress in restoring the building and halting its further decay.

Minimal changes are proposed to the original listed building and the design proposal will ensure that the listed building is respected and that it plays a principal role in the scheme. Working within current regulations, use requirements and sustainability policies, the proposed restoration and conservation works will restore the building to its former glory.

We will also create residential accommodation for members of the Buddhist community, who will share the ground floor kitchen/dining/social space with non-resident members and visitors. This reflects the community approach that Diamond Way Buddhist centres apply around the world.

To create the best sustainable development possible given the limitations of the building and its listed features, our aim in preparing our proposal is to achieve optimal energy performance.

## 4 Legal structure

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The activity of the New London Centre is operated by the UK-registered charity Diamond Way Teachings and Centres.

Diamond Way Teachings and Centres is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales under charity number 1143034, and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company number 07700737, with its registered office at the London Diamond Way Buddhist Centre, The Beaufoy, London SE11 6JJ, United Kingdom.

## 5 Work done in 2014

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2014 was a pivotal year for the London Diamond Way Buddhist Centre, and the following major landmarks occurred:

- the first part of the year was focused on the preparations for the Beaufoy's formal public opening;
- on Saturday 5 April 2014, the London Diamond Way Buddhist Centre at the Beaufoy was formally opened for the public, with representatives from Lambeth Council, the Beaufoy family, local residents and special guests from a number of Buddhist and other faith groups joining Lama Jigme Rinpoche and Lama Ole Nydahl at the ribbon-cutting ceremony;
- we began our regular public programme of public meditations every Thursday evening at 7pm, as well as one public lecture every third Sunday of each month;
- on Monday 19 May 2014, we enjoyed a brief visit by a noble guest and old friend, the Third Dupsing Rinpoche; and
- on Tuesday 3 June 2014, the London Diamond Way Buddhist Centre welcomed the 14th Kunzig Shamar Rinpoche, shortly before his passing.

Work continued on the Beaufoy throughout the year, and 2014 also saw the continuation of the major renovation process by which the Beaufoy will be brought back to its former glory, as well as the construction process by which we will make it ready for inhabitation by members of our Diamond Way community. We have already invited many friends from centres around the world to come help us with this work on our famous Power Weekends, and will continue this process of connecting Diamond Way centres around the world in this way.

## 6 Plans for the future

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2014 was the year in which we opened our doors to the public. We built on the foundations we had started to lay in 2013, and progressed our work on the Beaufoy in a way that has surprised and delighted many. We are now truly at home in the Beaufoy.

In 2015, we hope to commence the main contractor works on the Annex (and, in part, on the main building). This work will take a "Core & Shell" approach, which means we will ensure that the roof is repaired/replaced, new windows are installed, and also the core engineering (gas and electric) installations are provided. This will then enable us to move the project forward by ourselves.

We are planning to invite a number of teachers from around the world to London, including Lama Ole Nydahl. As we now have our own large venue in central London, we will be able to host these on site, rather than having to rent external venues.

2015 will be a year of great growth and expansion for the London sangha – come and join us!



## 7 Pictures





